

In the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0017] with the following new paragraph in which the changes are shown:

[0017] FIGURE 1a is an elevational view of an exemplary liquid sorbent material **10** fabricated in a form of a cured blanket having a first side **12**, a second side **14**. The blanket **10** is formed from a fibrous component and plastic-containing bonding fibers. The blanket **10** may have a density of about 24 to 112 kg/m³ (1.5 to 7.0 pounds per cubic feet (pcf)) and preferably about 32 to 64 kg/m³ (2.0 and 4.0 pcf). The density of the blanket **10** is substantially uniform throughout its volume and does not have any regions that have substantially different density from the rest of the blanket. The gram weight of the blanket **10** is in the range of about 500 to 3600 gm/m² and preferably about 600 to 3000 gm/m². The thickness of the cured blanket **10** may be fabricated to be in the range of about 6 to 89 mm (~~1 to 3.5 inches~~) with a desired thickness for a particular liquid sorbent product being determined by the final application.